

XXIX.—*Note on Onychotes grueberi, Ridgway.*

By JOHN HENRY GURNEY.

(Plate XII.)

IN 'The Ibis' for 1876, at p. 476, I referred, in some detail, to the very curious Buteonine bird for which Mr. Ridgway, a few years since, proposed the generic and specific names of *Onychotes grueberi*, the type specimen having been "sent to the Smithsonian Institution by Mr. Grüber, who labelled it as having been obtained in California" (*vide* Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway's 'North American Birds,' vol. iii. p. 254).

I am now enabled, by the courtesy of the authorities of the Smithsonian Institution, and the good offices, in particular, of Mr. Ridgway, to illustrate my observations above referred to by figures of the two only known specimens of this remarkable and evidently very rare species, viz. the original type specimen, and a second, subsequently added to the collection of the Smithsonian Institution, the locality of which, though not certainly known, is supposed to be, like that of Mr. Grüber's example, California (*vide* Ridgway's 'Studies of American Falconidæ,' p. 135).

This second specimen, so far as I am aware, has never before been figured; and no coloured figure of the type specimen has previously been published, though a very good woodcut of it accompanies the article on this species in the work on the birds of North America to which I have already referred.

In the plate (Plate XII.) which accompanies the present note the figure in the background represents the type specimen, and that in the front the second example acquired by the Smithsonian Institution.

It is needless for me here to repeat what I have said as to both these specimens in 'The Ibis' for 1876; neither is it necessary for me to quote the very full and appropriate remarks from the pen of Mr. Ridgway contained in the two works above referred to; but I may briefly mention a few points which have suggested themselves to my consideration after examining the two specimens now figured.



J. G. Keulemans lith.

Hartnagel imp.

INCHOTEC GRUEBERI

The genus *Onychotes* appears to me to be in many respects allied to the most typical section of the genus *Buteo*, from which, however, it is distinctly separated by the conspicuous shortness of the wing, a character which evinces its relationship to the genus *Asturina*.

The barring on the tail, which is almost exactly alike in the two specimens, is remarkable for the narrowness and multiplicity of the dark transverse bars. In the type specimen the number of these bars on the central rectrices is ten, besides a broader, but indistinct, dark terminal band. In the other example the transverse bars are eleven, besides the terminal band, which, in this case, is more distinct than in the type; the breadth of these bars is about one tenth of an inch, and that of the terminal band about four times as much.

Barring of this description on the tail is usually indicative of immaturity in the Falconidæ, the transverse caudal bars in most cases becoming fewer and broader as age advances; but, notwithstanding this, I am disposed to consider the type specimen of *O. grueberi* nearly, if not quite, adult, whilst the other specimen seems to me to be a younger bird gradually progressing towards the assumption of the fuliginous plumage, which in this species is, I think, probably characteristic of mature age.

A reference to the accompanying plate will show the principal differences of coloration between the two specimens; but I may observe that in the paler bird the scapulars, the major and median wing-coverts, and the upper tail-coverts are rather conspicuously crossed by dark-brown bars, between which are paler greyish-brown interspaces; these latter are palest on the inner webs of the feathers, except in the case of the tail-coverts, where they are paler on the outer web than on the inner. The number of these dark bars is from five to seven on each feather; in the type specimen these bars are less numerous, and only exist on the hidden portion of the feather; so that the external appearance of these parts of the plumage is, in that specimen, whole-coloured.

In both examples there are dark transverse bars on the secondaries and tertials; but these appear more clearly on

the inner than on the outer web, by reason of the lighter ground-colour of the former. The primaries are not cross-barred in the paler specimen; and in the type they are so barred on the inner webs only.

The under wing-coverts in the paler specimen appear to be slightly commencing the assumption of the remarkable ferruginous tint which characterizes them in the type, and which extends also, in that specimen, to the axillaries and the tibiæ. In the paler specimen the axillaries are crossed with alternate but somewhat irregular bands of white and brown, the latter being tinged with ferruginous at the tip of the feather; the thighs are, like the breast, white, slightly tinged with fulvous, and a little variegated with brown.

For further particulars of both specimens, and for the detailed measurements of each, I must refer to Mr. Ridgway's 'Studies of American Falconidæ,' p. 135, and to 'The Ibis' for 1876, p. 376.

XXX.—On a supposed new Species of Woodpecker from Eastern Siberia. By EDWARD HARGITT.

My friend Mr. Seebohm, knowing the interest I take in the family of Woodpeckers, has kindly lent me a male specimen of an *Iyngipicus* obtained by Mr. Dörries in the island of Askold, Eastern Siberia. Mr. Seebohm himself recognized the difference between this bird and *I. scintilliceps*, to which it has been united, and was good enough to express a wish that I should describe it. Herr Dörries, of the Hamburg Zoological Gardens, has since sent me four specimens, which fully confirm the distinctness of the species, which, in justice to his son, the collector, I propose to name after the latter.

*IYNGIPICUS DOERRIESI*, sp. nov.

*Picus scintilliceps*, Bolau, Journ. f. Orn. 1880, p. 131.

*I. affinis I. scintillicipiti*, Swinh., sed conspicuè major, et faciei et colli lateribus clariùs et puriùs albis, et plagâ humerali (e tectricibus alarum medianis et majoribus for-